



H.R. 5521 – Legislative Branch Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2007

Calendar No. 478

On June 22, the Appropriations Committee reported H.R. 5521, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute, by a vote of 28-0; S. Report 109-267.

Noteworthy

- H.R. 5521 provides \$3.98 billion in new budget authority for the Legislative Branch, which is nearly \$258.5 million below the estimate and \$187.0 million above the FY06 enacted level.
- Following a long tradition of comity between the Houses on matters pertaining to one House, the Committee concurs with the House of Representatives' allowance for itself. The House-passed bill, H.R. 5521, provides \$1.14 billion for its operations. H.R. 5521 passed the House on June 7 by a vote of 361-53. The \$3.98 billion total includes the House allowance.
- H.R. 5521, as reported to the Senate, provides \$840.7 million for Senate operations, which is \$63.1 million above the FY06 enacted level.
- The Senate bill provides \$39.6 million for the Capitol Visitor Center, which is nearly \$1.6 million below the estimate. The Senate Report notes that the opening will likely be further delayed.
- H.R. 5521 provides \$498.6 million for the Government Accountability Office, which is \$21.0 million above the FY06 enacted level. The bill provides \$272.4 million for the U.S. Capitol Police, which is \$25.4 million above the FY06 enacted level.
- The bill establishes an office of inspector general for the Office of the Architect of the Capitol to help enhance governmental efforts to promote integrity and efficiency and to detect and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.

Bill Provisions

Title I – Legislative Branch Appropriations, Senate

Senate Operations: Provides \$840.7 million for the Senate’s operations, which is \$36.0 million below the estimate, but \$63.1 million above the FY06 enacted level. Included within these funds is \$342.1 million for **Senators’ Official Personnel and Office Expense Accounts**, which is nearly \$32.0 million above the FY06 enacted level. The **Inquiries and Investigations** account, which provides funding for most of the Senate committees, was provided \$129.0 million, which is nearly \$9.4 million above the FY06 enacted level.

House Operations: Provides \$1.14 billion for House operations, which is \$18.5 million below the estimate, but \$47.9 million above the FY06 enacted level. The Senate Committee Report notes, “In keeping with the longstanding tradition of comity between the Houses on matters pertaining solely to one House, the Committee concurs with the House allowance of \$1,137,806,000 for the House of Representatives.”

Capitol Police: Provides \$272.4 million for the Capitol Police, which is \$22.7 million below the estimate, but \$25.4 million above the FY06 enacted level. The Committee Report notes its concern about the Capitol Police management’s strategy and slow response in resolving long-standing payroll issues, which have been identified by external independent auditors as material weaknesses.

Office of Compliance: Provides \$3.4 million for the Office of Compliance, which is equal to the estimate and \$337,000 above the FY06 enacted level.

Congressional Budget Office: Provides \$37.0 million for the Congressional Budget Office, which is \$39,000 below the estimate and \$1.9 million above the FY06 enacted level.

Architect of the Capitol (AOC): Provides \$451.8 million for the AOC (not including House office buildings, which are included in the House bill), which is \$153.3 million below the estimate and \$16.7 million below the FY06 enacted level. The bill provides \$39.6 million for the **Capitol Visitor Center**. The Report notes that the opening of the Center “is likely to be delayed well beyond the timeframe on which the budget estimate for operations was predicated.” The Report also notes that the Committee has not funded certain projects due to budget constraints and the need for the AOC to focus on the successful completion of ongoing projects. The Committee also recommends a provision creating a statutory inspector general for the AOC.

Library of Congress: Provides \$575.6 million for the Library of Congress, which is \$12.5 million below the estimate, but \$20.8 million above the FY06 enacted level. Within these funds is \$103.6 million for the **Congressional Research Service (CRS)**, which is \$3.7 million above the FY06 enacted level.

Government Printing Office: Provides \$140.3 million for the Government Printing Office, which is \$11.2 million below the estimate, but \$18.1 million above the FY06 enacted level.

Government Accountability Office: Provides \$498.6 million for the Government Accountability Office, which is \$3.8 million below the estimate, but \$21.0 million above the FY06 enacted level.

Open World Leadership Center: Provides \$14.0 million for the Open World Leadership Center, which is \$400,000 below the estimate, but \$140,000 above the FY05 enacted level.

Stennis Center for Public Service: Provides \$430,000 for the Stennis Center for Public Service.

Title II – General Provisions

Included are several routine general provisions carried annually in the bill. For example, Section 204 bans the use of funds for contracts unless such contracts are matters of public record and are available for public inspection. In addition to the routine provisions, Section 209 requires the use of ethanol fuel by legislative branch agencies to the extent practicable.

Administration Position

The Administration does not issue Statements of Administration Policy for Legislative Branch Appropriations bills.

Cost

H.R. 2985 would result in the following outlays:

FY 2007	\$3,367 million ¹
FY 2008	\$437 million
FY 2009	\$100 million
FY 2010	\$28 million
FY 2011 (and future years)	\$17 million

¹ Includes outlays from prior-year budget authority. In addition to the budget authority included in these outlays, the bill provides \$118 million for mandatory spending for Senate employee benefits.